

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /082 W

----- 055803

R 301105Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3034

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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KINGSTON FOR AMBASSADOR GERARD

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, NS

SUBJ: NATIONAL LEADERS SPEAK DURING INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

SUMMARY: SURINAM'S PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER CHOSE TO FOCUS ON DEMOCRACY AND THE LABOR OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN THE NATION'S INTEREST AS MAJOR THEMES ON THE OCCASION OF FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF SURINAM'S INDEPENDENCE. IN MODERATE AND MEASURED WORDS, THE GOS LEADERS EXHORTED SURINAMERS TO GREATER EFFORTS IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY AND AN INCREASED CONSCIOUSNESS OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AS MEMBERS OF A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.

1. CELEBRATIONS OF FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF SURINAM'S INDEPENDENCE NOVEMBER 24 AND 25 PROVIDED OCCASIONS FOR PRESIDENT FERRIER AND PRIME MINISTER ARRON TO DELIVER PUBLIC EXHORTATIONS URGING SURINAMERS TO GREATER EFFORTS IN THE SERVICE OF SURINAM'S DEVELOPMENT. PRESIDENT'S NOVEMBER 25 SPEECH TO SPECIAL SESSION OF PARLIAMENT CONCENTRATED ON IMPORTANCE OF PROMOTING AND PRESERV-

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ING SURINAM'S DEMOCRACY WHILE PRIME MINISTER SOUNDED THEME OF

HARD WORK AS A NECESSARY INGREDIENT FOR NATION BUILDING IN HIS NOVEMBER 24 RADIO AND TELEVISION SPEECH TO THE NATION.

2. IN STRIKINGLY FORTHRIGHT ADDRESS, PRESIDENT FERRIER SOUGHT TO MAKE SURINAMERS MORE CONSCIOUS OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY IN SURINAM. POINTING OUT THAT IN MANY COUNTRIES THE NUMBER OF SUCH PEOPLE WHO COULD OFFER LEADERSHIP AND WHO COULD PARTICIPATE IN DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT HAD BEEN TOO LIMITED, HE WARNED THAT THE RESULTING SITUATION HAD OFTEN PRODUCED A MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF GENERALS OR, IN A POINTED REFERENCE TO SURINAM'S MILITARY LEADERSHIP, OF COLONELS.

3. PRESIDENT FERRIER NOTED SURINAM'S PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY OF MORE THAN 110 YEARS AND CALLED DEMOCRACY MORE THAN A "FORM OF SOCIETY," A "STYLE OF LIFE." THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT MANY CHANGES IN ATTITUDE WERE NECESSARY BUT THAT THIS SHOULD TAKE PLACE DEMOCRATICALLY AND SHOULD NOT LEAD TO CHAOS. HE DESCRIBED THE IMPORTANT ROLE WHICH EDUCATION PLAYS IN THIS PROCESS BY TRAINING YOUTH FOR THE POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY THEY MUST ASSUME. HE ALSO CITED THE IMPORTANCE OF A FREE PRESS IN NATIONAL COMMUNICATION, CALLING IT A "MIRROR" IN WHICH "WE CAN SEE OURSELVES AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS A NATION."

4. THE PRESIDENT CALLED UPON SURINAMERS TO PRODUCE WHAT THEY NEED FROM THEIR OWN RESOURCES, BUT NOT TO ISOLATE THEMSELVES FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD. EMPHASIZING THE NEED TO "SET ONE'S OWN TABLE IN ORDER," HE NOTED THAT THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES HAD LAID DOWN THE BASIS FOR THEIR WEALTH THROUGH AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. HE SAW SUCH DEVELOPMENT AS OFFERING CONSIDERABLE EXPORT POTENTIAL AS WELL.

5. BUILDING THE FUTURE REQUIRES, ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENT, AN UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE BY ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE NEED FOR A NATIONAL DISCIPLINE "AS STRONG AS IRON." CALLING UPON THE GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT TO BE AN EXAMPLE TO THE PEOPLE, TO LEAD, AND TO PROTECT THE CONSTITUTION AND PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY LAID DOWN THEREIN AS THE BASIS OF SURINAM'S FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE, THE PRESIDENT CONCLUDED BY URGING EVERYONE TO LABOR NOT JUST FOR THEMSELVES BUT FOR SOCIETY AND THE FUTURE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF SURINAM.

6. IN HIS SPEECH TO THE NATION, PRIME MINISTER ARRON DESCRIBED THE NEED TO CHANGE THE "COLONIAL MENTALITY" WHICH HE SAID STILL EXISTS IN SURINAM AND CALLED UPON ALL SURINAMERS TO DEVOTE MORE LABOR TO THE BUILDING OF THE NATION. ACCORDING TO ARRON, UNDER THE COLONIAL REGIME SURINAMERS DID NOT LEARN TO CARRY OR TO RECOGNIZE ANY RESPONSIBILITY, THINKING THAT OTHERS WERE

RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FUTURE OF THEIR COUNTRY. INSTEAD THEY
LEARNED TO CARE ONLY FOR THEMSELVES AND TO SERVE THE NATIONAL
INTEREST ONLY WHEN IT OFFERED THEM AN ADVANTAGE.

7. ARRON SAID THIS NEGATIVE TENDENCY MUST BE FOUGHT AGAINST AND
ELIMINATED BEFORE SURINAM CAN DEVELOP. MORE SO THAN FINANCIAL
MEANS IS IT A LIMITING FACTOR IN SURINAM'S DEVELOPMENT.
SURINAMERS MUST SEE TO IT THAT ENOUGH IS EARNED OUT OF THEIR
OWN LABOR AND RESOURCES SO THAT THEY CAN TRULY BE INDEPENDENT.
CONCLUDING WITH A REFERENCE TO THE THEME OF THE CELEBRATIONS,
"HERE IS MY CONTRIBUTION," ARRON CITED THREE CONTRIBUTIONS
WHICH EVERY SURINAMER SHOULD MAKE: (A) THE IMPROVEMENT OF
ONESELF; (B) DEVOTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION; AND
(C) LABOR FOR THE NATION.

8. COMMENT: REMARKS OF PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER ARE INDI-
CATIVE OF GOS'S CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE TASK IT FACES IN MOTIVAT-
ING THE DIVERSE PEOPLES OF SURINAM TO LABOR FOR THE INTERESTS
OF THEIR COUNTRY. PRESIDENT'S EMPHASIS ON DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES
SERVES AS REMINDER OF SURINAM'S COMMITMENT TO PARLIAMENTARY
DEMOCRACY AND THE NEED FOR BOTH LEADERS AND PEOPLE TO BE AWARE
OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROTECT IT AGAINST THE STRESSES
AND STRAINS OF NATION BUILDING. TAKEN TOGETHER, THE TWO SPEECHES
REFLECT A GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT AND TO
THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF ALL SURINAMERS IN NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS, SPEECHES, INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARAMA01076
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760444-0126
From: PARAMARIBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976113/aaaaacte.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <27 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONAL LEADERS SPEAK DURING INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS SUMMARY: SURINAM'S PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER CH
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, NS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006